

# This Week's News

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday February 2nd, 2025

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### Rescheduled IRTS Committee Meeting

Due to the aftereffects of Storm Éowyn and that still quite a lot of people throughout the country are without power or internet access, the IRTS committee has decided to reschedule the IRTS committee meeting that was due to be held on the Zoom platform on Tuesday night February 4th. In order to give people the maximum chance to attend the meeting, it has now been rescheduled to Thursday, February 6th, and once again on the Zoom platform at the same time of 8 p.m.

All IRTS affiliated clubs are reminded that under Rule 16.1, the members in each affiliated club, society or other body may elect a representative and an alternate annually to attend IRTS committee meetings. Clubs wishing to send a representative should notify the IRTS Secretary, Owen EI4GGB at [irts\\_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie) in advance to ensure notification and links are provided.

The IRTS website has now been updated to include a section with all details associated with the IRTS insurance policy. This section can be found by going to the “Services” tab and scrolling down to “IRTS Insurance”. This page includes all the details about the insurance policy which is available to all IRTS affiliated clubs who are located in EI.

The page has information about using a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) document and also a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section. If any club has questions that are not covered in this page, you are asked to get in contact with the IRTS Insurance Officer Pat EI9HX.

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### Amateur Radio Emergency Network (AREN) Update

Mark EI4FNB, who is the AREN coordinator, would like to thank all AREN members who were recently on standby to respond to storm Éowyn.

They had enquiries from a number of primary agencies around the country to stand by for a possible activation. AREN would also like to thank all the clubs who responded with contact information just in case a larger response needed to be initiated.

Future initiatives will include how to better coordinate between AREN and local radio clubs for future events. The standby highlighted a number of already identified areas that can be improved upon over the coming year.

For information on AREN please contact [aren /at/ irts.ie](mailto:aren@irts.ie).

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### South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

EI2WRC will be hosting the 92nd IRTS AGM Weekend in The Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Rd, Carlow over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of April 2025. People who are planning on attending are urged to book their hotel rooms without delay as almost all rooms have now been taken. Dinner tickets for the Gala Dinner which will be held on Saturday, April 12th are now available to be pre-booked.

Rally tables for clubs/groups and commercial traders for the rally on Sunday, April 13th can now be booked also. Tables for individual traders will be made available to be pre-booked at a later

date. For more information, go to [searg.ie](http://searg.ie) and click on the IRTS AGM 2025 link.

For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details please see [www.searg.ie](http://www.searg.ie)

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### **IRTS Awards Committee**

IRTS Awards curator Mark EI4FNB requests that any members who won awards last year and who have not already returned them already could they please do so as soon as possible. Awards can be returned to any IRTS committee member. Mark also hopes to collect returning awards at both the Limerick Clare Amateur Radio and at the Phoenix Amateur Radio club rallies. For anyone who needs to get in contact with Mark regarding return of trophies, you can find his contact details on the contact section on [irts.ie](http://irts.ie).

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### **Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club**

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club invite all members to attend their 2025 Annual General Meeting. It takes place on Thursday the 20th of February at 7 p.m. sharp in the Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands, Midwest in Moylish, Limerick.

The club's weekly activation of EI4SAM runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The initial calling frequency is 7.123 MHz, plus or minus QRM. All callers are welcome.

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### **Maritime Radio Day 2025**

Registration is now open for Maritime Radio Day 2025 which takes place annually on the 14th and 15th of April. This is to commemorate the almost 100 years of wireless telegraphy service for seafarers which ended with the closure in the UK of Portishead Radio on the 30th of April 2000.

Commencing at 12:00 UTC on the 14th and finishing at 23:00 UTC on the 15th, this event is a great opportunity to QSO with ex-marine radio officers and coast station professionals who exchange details of their previous ships and coast stations. The mode of operation is CW, and all the HF bands are used including the WARC bands. A certificate of participation will be issued to all who submit results.

Amateur licence holders are invited to register and take part as "Friends of MRD". SWLs may also submit logs. You can find further information at [radioofficers.com](http://radioofficers.com).

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### **Contest Updates**

The RSGB 3.5 MHz Club Championship Contest takes place tomorrow Monday, the 3rd of February which is a bank holiday in EI. It runs for ninety minutes starting at 20:00 UTC. Self-spotting is permitted. You can find out more about this contest at [www.rsgbcc.org](http://www.rsgbcc.org)

Attention switches to VHF on Tuesday and Wednesday night next with multiple activities to get involved in. Two 144MHz events run back-to-back on Tuesday night. The RSGB 144MHz FM Activity contest starts from 19:00 UTC and continues until 19:55 UTC. At 20:00 UTC, it is followed by the UK Activity contest that runs until 22:30 UTC.

On Wednesday, the 5th of February, the next event in the European FT8 Activity series takes place from 17:00 to 21:00 UTC using FT8 and FT4 digital modes.

Towards the end of the week, the RSGB 1.8MHz Contest runs on Saturday, the 8th of February 2025 from 20:00 UTC to 23:00 UTC. Two rule changes for 2025 to note are that the duration has been reduced from four to three hours and now SSB is permitted in the February event.

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### **Radio Rally Updates**

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club EI2PAR holds their annual radio rally in two weeks' time on Sunday February 16th, 2025. It will take place in Coolmine Community School, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Doors open at 10 a.m. and entry will cost five euro. You can book a table by contacting Tony EI7GI at 087 2439997.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club's annual rally takes place on the 9th of March in Treacy's Oakwood Hotel in Shannon. To book a table, you are asked to please contact Dermot Gleeson, EI2GT, at DermotGleeson1 /at/ gmail.com. Only bookings made via email will be accepted.

Lough Erne Amateur Club's Radio Rally will be held on Sunday the 18th of May 2025. The venue is the Share Discovery Village, 221 Lisnaskea Road, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen BT92 0JZ. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Entry costs five euro or five pounds which includes a ticket for the draw. The rally will include a bring and buy and usual facilities including food and refreshments. Further details are available at [LoughErneRadioClub.co.uk](http://LoughErneRadioClub.co.uk).

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam /at/ irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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